

'61 Killing of Trujillo Kin Urged

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Shortly after the assassination of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo in 1961, the State Department was urged by its new consul general there to give highest priority to the "complete neutralization" of Gen. Arismendi Trujillo, the slain dictator's troublesome brother.

The word "neutralize," according to informed sources, was a bureaucratic euphemism for "assassinate" and had turned up before in secret government documents concerning the rebel group that killed Rafael Trujillo.

The recommendation involving Arismendi Trujillo was sent directly to the State Department and apparently received fairly widespread distribution there.

The episode contrasts with allegations of Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), who has more than once likened the CIA to a "rogue elephant" in its assassination scheming, off on a rampage of its own. Church's Senate intelligence committee has been investigating CIA involvement in assassination plots for months and is expected to make its report public this week after a closed-door presentation to the Senate.

The proposal to neutralize Arismendi Trujillo was made to the State Department in an early September, 1961, telegram from U.S. consul general John C. Hill in Ciudad Trujillo (now Santo Domingo).

The telegram, which also contained other recommendations for U.S. policymakers, sources said, was stamped "Secret," ear-

marked for "action" by the State Department's Bureau of Inter-American Affairs, and was designated for distribution to approximately a dozen other offices at the department.

It could not be learned how seriously the recommendation was considered or how high it was carried. Arismendi Trujillo left the Dominican Republic in November, 1961, in a showdown with President Joaquin Balaguer that brought U.S. warships close to shore.

The State Department also had been informed of the assassination plans of the Dominican dissident group which killed Rafael Trujillo on May 30, 1961, after getting what has been described as a token supply of small arms from the CIA.

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RAFAEL TRUJILLO
...brother a target

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Trujillo Kin's Slaying Urged

ASSASSINATE, From A1
In the Dominican Republic, at least, confirmed one investigator of the CIA's involvement in assassination plots, "the CIA was not operating in a vacuum."

The CIA weapons, for example, were provided to the rebel group that killed Trujillo with the help of consul general Henry Dearborn, Hill's predecessor. The CIA reportedly stated that the guns had been given to members of the opposition as "personal defense weapons attendant to their efforts to neutralize (Rafael) Trujillo."

Although there is no evidence that the CIA guns were used in Trujillo's assassination, Dearborn has acknowledged that the U.S. government was well aware that the dissidents saw assassination as "the only option" for them. He has

repeatedly stated that whatever he did was done "not only with the knowledge but the approval of the State Department."

A few days after Trujillo was killed, Dearborn was replaced by Hill as consul general. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Rafael (Ramfis) Trujillo Jr., the dictator's son, returned to take command of the Dominican armed forces. The island nation remained in turmoil.

One of the biggest problems was Gen. Arismendi Trujillo, Ramfis's uncle, who reigned virtually supreme in the Bonao district with a private army of 6,000 men known as Cocuyos de las Cordilleras (Glowworms of the Mountains).

Consul general Hill, among others, reportedly tried to persuade Arismendi Trujillo to leave the country, but without success.

By early September of 1961, sources said, Hill informed the State Department that he felt "highest priority" should be given not only to "removing" Hector Trujillo, another of the late dictator's brothers who

had been president (and who, the cable said, was reportedly planning to go to Rome), but also "to neutralizing General Arismendi Trujillo."

Hill told Washington that "his departure or complete neutralization would do much to promote" a more democratic climate and would substantially reduce the possibility of "repeated incidents" in the countryside.

In late October, 1961, the government newspaper El Caribe said Arismendi Trujillo had left the country permanently "for health reasons." Brother Hector left a day later, but the two of them returned unexpectedly in mid-November, triggering fears of a coup.

Acting on information supplied by Hill, Secretary of State Dean Rusk warned publicly that the two brothers might be plotting to seize power. Besides calling the threat to the world's attention, Rusk hinted at possible intervention, saying the Kennedy administration was

considering "further measures."

Ramfis quickly resigned as chief of the armed forces and left for Paris aboard his yacht. The elder Trujillos went into exile a day later while a flotilla of U.S. warships stood offshore in support of President Balaguer.

A Foreign Service career officer, Hill was later credited with working out the formula for a provisional government in the Dominican Republic and was named by President Kennedy as one of the United States' outstanding diplomats. He died in 1973.

Testifying about proposed covert operations generally, a longtime State Department liaison officer with the CIA, James R. Gardner, said recently that they were usually discussed at informal meetings in the State Department, no matter whether the proposal was generated in the field or in Washington, by the CIA or by State.

In an appearance before the House intelligence committee, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger added that every covert operation has had the personal approval of the President since he came to Washington with the Nixon administration. Kissinger said he was virtually certain that this was the case in earlier administrations as well.

House committee chairman Otis Pike (D-N.Y.) has said that he, for one, was satisfied that "the CIA was no rogue elephant . . . The CIA was not a runaway."